

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 02318 250834Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 ICA-11  
/045 W

-----105150 251916Z /15

R 240900Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1577

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PDEV, GB, US  
SUBJECT: NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE FOR GABON

REF: STATE 201632

1. DURING CALL ON MOFA SECGEN MEBALEY AUG 23, AMBASSADOR  
RAISED QUESTION OF GABON'S NATIONAL DAY, NOTING THAT IT WAS OUR  
CUSTOM, AS IT WAS GABON'S TO SEND AN APPROPRIATE MESSAGE ONCE-  
A-YEAR TO OUR FRIENDS ON THAT SPECIAL OCCASION. WE WERE HAVING  
SOME PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IN DETERMINING WHICH DAY, MARCH 12 OR AUG 17,  
GABON CONSIDERED AS ITS NATIONAL DAY.

2. MEBALEY WENT ALL AROUND ROBINHOOD'S BARN. WHAT THE AMBASSADOR  
FINALLY GOT OUT OF IT WAS:

A. LITTLE BY LITTLE, MARCH 12 IS BECOMING GABON'S MOST  
IMPORTANT DAY. INDEED, IT IS "UNOFFICIALLY" NOW CONSIDERED A  
NATIONAL DAY.

B. AUG 17, NONETHELESS, IS INDEPENDENCE DAY, AND TECHNICALLY  
IS STILL NATIONAL DAY. GABON RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE IT  
FALLS DURING AUGUST VACATION TIME, MARCH 12 IS BETTER DATE FOR  
CELEBRATION.

C. GABONESE MISSIONS ABROAD HONOR BOTH DAYS.

D. HIS RECOMMENDATION: IN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMED BEST SEND  
TWO MESSAGES.

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 02318 250834Z

3. COMMENT: GABON DID IN FACT RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM SOME HEADS OF  
STATE ON AUG 17 (SOME OF WHOM PROBABLY ALSO SENT MESSAGES MARCH 12),  
AND FRENCH DELEGATION TO ATTEND OYEM CEREMONIES (THEY ALSO HAD  
DELEGATION MARCH 12).

AMBASSADOR FOLLOWED DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION AND SENT MESSAGE ON  
BEHALF USG. WHILE WE FULLY AWARE OF DEPARTMENT'S RELUCTANCE

SEND MORE THAT ONE CEREMONIAL MESSAGE PER YEAR, WE NONETHELESS  
SUGGEST THAT EXCEPTION IS WARRANTED IN THESE PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES.  
FAILING THAT, DEPARTMENT MAY AGAIN WISH TAKE MATTER UP WITH  
GABONESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, PERHAPS ASKING THEM TO SECURE  
DEFINITIVE REPLY FROM MEBALEY'S REPLY TO AMBASSADOR, HOWEVER,  
LATTER MAY NOT BE EASY TO OBTAIN. TIENKEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LIBREV02318  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 201632  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1635289  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE FOR GABON  
**TAGS:** PDEV, GB, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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